

REMARKS

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 2, and 8 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by Oda et al. (US 6,786,199). The Examiner has rejected claims 1 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Ejiri et al (US 4,735,179). The Examiner has stated that claims 3-7 and 9-11 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants have canceled claims 1 and 8. Applicants have amended claims 2-7 and 9-11, which are the currently pending claims. Specifically, claims 3 and 4 are amended to include all the limitations of claim 1, from which they depended as initially entered. Applicants submit that the Examiner has stated that such amendment would put claims 3 and 4 in allowable form; such allowance is solicited. Applicants further submit that claims 2 and 5-7, which depend claim 3, are also now allowable.

Applicants have amended claim 9 to include all the limitations of claim 8, from which it depended as initially entered. The Examiner has stated that such amendment would cause claim 9 to be allowable. Applicants request such allowance of claim 9 and for claims 10 and 11, which as amended depend from claim 9.

No other art is cited in the Office Action. Based on the foregoing comments, the above-identified application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such allowance is courteously solicited. If any further amendment is necessary to advance prosecution and place this case in allowable condition, the Examiner is courteously requested to contact the undersigned by fax or telephone at the number listed below.

Please charge any cost incurred in the filing of this Amendment, along with any other costs, to Deposit Account 06-1510. If there are insufficient funds in this account, please charge the fees to Deposit Account No.06-1505.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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